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## SPACE POWER PROPULSION SECTION

CATALOGEN BY ASTIA

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QUARTERLY REPORT #3

For Period Ending January 15, 1963

DYNAMIC SHAFT SEALS IN SPACE Under Contract #AF 33(657)-8459

For

Aeronautical Systems Division Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Obio

SPACECRAFT DEPARTMENT MISSILE and SPACE DIVISION ASTIR

GENERAL ( ELECTRICALE CO



CINCINNATI, OHIO

APR 8 1964

SPACE POWER AND PROPULSION SECTION

QUARTERLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 15, 1962

DYNAMIC SHAFT SEALS IN SPACE Under Contract #AF 33(657)-8459

RE-ENTRY SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT MISSILE AND SPACE DIVISION GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY CINCINNATI 15, OHIO

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#### I. SUMMARY

The Space Power and Propulsion Section of the General Electric Company has been under contract to the Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, since April 15, 1962 for the development of dynamic shaft seals for space applications. The objective of this program is to acquire the techniques for sealing high speed rotating shafts under the operating conditions of high temperature liquid metals and vapors, the near-vacuum environments of space, and to provide long seal life.

- A. The contract specifies the following requirements:
  - 1. The fluid to be sealed shall be potassium.
  - The seals shall be operative at fluid temperatures from the melting point of the fluid selected to 1400°F.
  - 3. The pressure on the fluid side of the seal shall be 15 psi and the external pressure shall be  $10^{-6}\ \mathrm{mm}$  Hg.
  - 4. The speed of the rotating shaft shall be a maximum of 36,000 rpm.
  - 5. The seal, or seal combinations, shall be designed for 10,000 hours of maintenance-free life.
  - The working fluid, potassium, shall be used as the seal lubricant.
  - 7. The seal, or seal combinations, shall be capable of maintaining zero leakage - in the technical sense - under all conditions of operation.
  - 8. The seals shall be designed for a 1.0 inch diameter shaft.

- 9. The seals shall be capable of operating in a zero "g" environment.
- B. The seal evaluation shall consist of:
  - 1. Preliminary experiments with water.
  - 2. 100-hour operational screening test with liquid metal.
  - 3. Thermal-cycling test with liquid metal.
  - 4. 3000-hour life test with liquid metal.

This report covers progress during the quarter ending January 15, 1962. The main events of this reporting period are:

- Manufacture of the rotating disk-squeeze seal configuration for water testing to 20,000 rpm was completed.
- 2. Testing of the rotating disk-squeeze seal configuration in water was initiated and its feasibility was proven.
- Manufacture of the rotating disk seal configuration for water testing to 20,000 rpm was completed.
- 4. Testing of the rotating disk seal configuration in water was initiated and its feasibility proven.
- 5. Testing of the screw seal configuration in water and silicone fluid up to speeds of 35,000 rpm continued.
- 6. Evaluation of test results from the screw seal testing comparison of the results to analytical expectations was initiated,
- Evaluation of preliminary results from both the rotating disk seal and the rotating disk-squeeze seal configurations was initiated.

- 8. Design and placement of manufacturing order for the double disk seal configuration for 20,000 rpm water tests.
- 9. Design of the liquid metal seal test facility was completed.
- 10. Manufacturing orders of all major components in the liquid metal seal test facility were placed.
- 11. The design of the liquid metal seal test rig for operation at speeds up to 36,000 rpm was finalized.
- 12. The drive spindle end of the 36,000 rpm test rig has been sent out for manufacturing quotations to eight qualified vendors.

#### II. FLUID DYNAMIC TESTING

The water test rig for the rotating disk-squeeze seal configuration was manufactured this quarter. The configuration is shown in Figure 3. Set-up of the seal configuration on the 20,000 rpm test spindle was satisfactory. This spindle was previously used for the rotating housing-stationary disk seal configuration in Figure 2. Preliminary check-out was successful and testing is currently in progress. The test rig modifications which may be made to completely investigate this seal configuration and the test procedure to be followed is covered below.

#### A. Test Procedure for Squeeze-Seal

- Build-up water seal test rig with the configurations specified in Table I..
- 2. Run the seal at the maximum possible sealing pressure for the following speeds and plot.

- 3. Measure the following parameters on Sanborn at each speed point.
  - a. Speed
  - b. Seal Pressure Profile
  - c. Sealing Pressure

- d. Seal Rim Pressure
- e. Seal Torque
- f. Seal Water Temperature, In
- g. Seal Water Temperature, Out of Disk
- h. Seal Water Temperature, Out.
- 4. Seal cooling water flow will be set at 2 gpm for all test configurations. In addition, test configurations shall be repeated with
  water flow set at 1 gpm.

The squeeze seal test configurations include variation of several significant parameters. These parameters are: rotating disk axial spacing changes on both the low pressure and high pressure side, changes of the minimum water level on the low pressure side of the disk, changes in the recirculating ring axial length, changes in squeeze annulus clearance and changes in the annulus bushing axial length. These configurations are identified by the following numbering sequence and Table II.

First digit	3	Represents squeeze seal.
Next two digits	00	Represents disk configuration, Part a.
Next digit	0	Represents r configuration, Part b.
Next digit	0	Represents recirculating ring config-
		uration, Part c.
Next digit	0	Represents spacer-sleeve configuration,
		Part d.
Next digit	0	Represents bushing configuration, Part e.

Sample Configuration Number: 3-00-0000

TEST CONFIGURATION
SQUEEZE SEAL
Part a

		· · ·		Ma Se		*				• •													
Spindle Configuration	High Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-886	No Spacer	(1)#1 Spacer (.100)	(2)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer (.300)	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	No Spacer	(1)#1 Spacer	(2)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2) #2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 Spacer	(2)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer
Spindle Co	Low Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-884	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	#1 Spacer (.050)	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#2 Spacer (.100)	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer
	8 Spacer + .097 - 8	990.	.166	. 266	366	.466	. 566	999.	.768	910.	116	.216	.316	.416	.516	.616	.716	990.	.166	. 266	.366	. 466	. 566
	$\frac{s_L}{L} = s_{pacer} + 0.031$	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.081	.081	.081	.081	.081	.081	.081	180,	.131	.131	.131	.131	.131	.131
	Disk Config. S <sub>L</sub>	1	8	က	4	va	•	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	G	10	, tt	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	F 1 1 1										-6	<b>}</b> ~								. :		S	

TABLE I (Continued)
Part a

Spindle Configuration

High Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-886	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer
Low Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-884	100 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	#1 & #3 Spacer	#1 & #3 Spacer	#1 & #3 Spacer	#1 k #3 Spacer	#1 & #3 Spacer	#1 & #3 Spacer	#1 & #3 Spacer	#4 Spacer (.300)	#4 Spacer	#4 Spacer	#4 Spacer	#4 Spacer	#4 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer	(1)#1,(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4	(1)#1,(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4	(1)#1,(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4
18 - 760.																						
S <sub>H</sub> Spacer +	999.	990.	.166	.266	.366	.466	.566	999.	990.	.166	. 266	.366	.466	.566	900.	.166	. 266	.366	.466	990.	.166	. 266
+ 0.031													-									
Spacer	.131	.231	.231	.231	.231	.231	.231	.231	.331	.331	.331	.331	.331	.331	.431	.431	.431	.431	.431	.631	.631	.631
Disk Config. S. No.		2°		٠								•			· •							
Disk Conf	23	24	25	26	27	28	* 6X	9	31	32	-7-	Ķ	35	<sup>~</sup> 9E	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44

#### TABLE I

Part b		Part	
Housing Configuration No.	r <sub>L</sub>	Recirculating Ring Configuration No.	Recirculating Ring P/N4012000-378
1	1.22	1	#1 Ring (1.006)
2	0.84	2	#2 Ring (.682)
		<b>3</b>	#3 Ring (.374)

Part d		 Part e								
Spacer-Sleeve Configuration No.	Spacer-Sleeve P/N4012000-881	Bushing Configuration No.	Bushing P/N4012000-877							
1	#1 Spacer (2.496)	1	#1 Bushing (.905)							
2	#2 Spacer (2.446)	2	#2 Bushing (1.219)							
3	#3 Spacer (2.393)	3	#3 Bushing (1.527)							

#### B. Test Procedure For Rotating Disk Seal

- Build up water seal test rig with the configurations specified in Table I.
- 2. Run the seal at the maximum possible sealing pressure for the following speeds and plot.

5,000 + 100 rpm

10,000 + 200 rpm

15,000 + 500 rpm

20,000 ± 0 rpm

- 3. Measure the following parameters on Sanborn at each speed point.
  - a. Speed
  - b. Seal Pressure Profile
  - c. Sealing Pressure
  - d. Seal Rim Pressure
  - e. Seal Torque
  - f. Seal Water Temperature, In
  - g. Seal Water Temperature, Out
- 4. Seal cooling water flow will be set at 2 gpm for all test configurations. In addition, test configurations 1, 11, 22 and 33 shall be repeated with water flow set at 1 gpm.
- Repeat items 2, 3 and 4 with pressure tap #5 maintained at atmospheric pressure.

TABLE II
TEST CONFIGURATIONS

guratión	High Pressure Side Spacer P/N 4012000-886 Insert P/N 4012000-941	No Spacer, #2 insert	(1)#1 Spacer, #2 Insert	(1)#1 Spacer, #1 Insert	No Spacer or Insert	(1)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	No Spacer, #1 insert	(1)#1 Spacer, #1 Insert	No Spacer or Insert	(1)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 Spacer, #2 Insert	(2)#1 Spacer, #2 Insert	No Spacer or Insert	(1)#1 Spacer	(2)#1 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(2)#2 Spacer	(2)#1 Spacer, #2 Insert	(1)#2 Spacer, #2 Insert
Spindle Configuration	Low Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-884	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	No Spacer	#1 Spacer (.050)	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#1 Spacer	#2 Spacer (.100)	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer (.100)	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer
	$S_{H} = \frac{S_{H}}{Spacer + 0.312 - S_{L}}$	.031	.131	.181	.281	.381	.581	.781	.981	.031	.131	.231	.331	.531	.731	.031	.131	.181	.281	.381	.581	.781	.031	.131
Rotating Disk	$S_{L} = Spacer + 0.031$	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.031	.081	180.	180°	.081	.081	.081	.131	.131	.131	.131	.131	.131	.131	.231	.231
	Disk Config. No.	1	84	က	4	ເດ		7	<b>∞</b>	•	91	# -1	-0 12 0-1	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	50	21	22	23

# Spindle Configuration

Low Pressure Side Spacer P/N4012000-884 Spacer P/N4012000-886 Insert P/N4012000-941	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer (1)#1 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer (2)#1 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer (2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#1 & (1)#3 Spacer (1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	#4 Spacer (.300) (1)#2 Spacer, #2 Insert	#4 Spacer (1)#1 Spacer	#4 Spacer (2)#1 Spacer	#4 Spacer (1)#2 Spacer	#4 Spacer (1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	#4 Spacer (2)#2 Spacer	#4 Spacer (.300) (2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (.400) (1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer, #2 Insert	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (2)#1 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#2 & (1)#4 Spacer (1)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4 Spacers (1) #2 Spacer	(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4 Spacer (1)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4 Spacer (2)#1 & (1)#2 Spacer	(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4 Spacer (2)#2 Spacer	(1)#2,(1)#3 & (1)#4 Spacer (2)#1 & (2)#2 Spacer
S <sub>H</sub> - Spacer + 0.312 - S <sub>L</sub> - Insert	.181	.281	.381	.581	.781	.031	.081	.181	. 281	.381	.581	.781	.031	.081	.181	.281	.381	.581	.031	.131	.231	.331	.531
Disk $\frac{S_L}{Config.}$ $S_L = Spacer + 0.031$	.231	. 231	. 231	. 231	. 231	.331	.331	.331	.331	.331	188.	.331	. 431	.431	.431	.431	.431	.431	.581	.581	.581	.581	.581
Dis Con No.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	-11	35	ဗ္ဗ	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Testing of the rotating disk-squeeze seal and the rotating disk seal configurations with water as a working fluid has been performed for determination of the following:

- a. What is the maximum sealing pressure possible for a given diameter seal?
- b. What is the pressure profile within the seal?
- c. What is the power requirement for a given diameter seal?
- d. What is the required clearance between the rotating disk and stationary wall to minimize heating problems and maximize sealing capability?
- e. What cooling flow is required to remove the heat generated by fluid friction?

The tests have definitely proved the feasibility of the rotating disk seal and the squeeze seal. Both of these seals demonstrated ability to seal liquid and gas. Preliminary evaluation of some of the test data has been made and is shown in Figures 17 through 20. Further evaluation of test data for these configurations is continuing.

#### C. Screw Seal

The screw seal test rig has been run to rotational speeds of 35,000 rpm.

Operation was stable. The sealing coefficients obtained approximate those measured with a free floating sleeve. Since no rubbing occurred, measured friction factors were lower than with the free floating sleeve. The values obtained with a fixed sleeve more closely matched those of an unloaded journal bearing.

Figures 8 and 9 show the screw seal test set up and instrumentation set up.

Figure 10 shows the screw configuration. A summary of screw seal test results

is given in Figures 21 and 22.

Reference 7 describes the screw seal tests conducted with a free floating sleeve. This configuration proved to be unstable in the turbulent flow regime and it was not possible to reach the desired operating speed of 35,000 rpm.

To correct this, the sleeve was mounted in ball bearings. The fixed sleeve configuration shown in Figure 3 is much more stable than the floating sleeve, and operation to 35,000 rpm was successful.

A summary of the test results for fixed sleeve operation is shown in Figure 4. The table includes the fluid being sealed, rotational speed, sealing pressure, length of wetted shaft and power consumed. In general, the power requirements were lower with the fixed sleeve than with the floating sleeve due to the fact that rubbing occurred with the floating sleeve.

#### 1. Fixed Sleeve Sealing Coefficient

The measured sealing coefficients for fixed sleeve operation approximated those measured with the floating sleeve. The laminar sealing coefficient, however, approached a value of .34 for fixed sleeve operation rather than the value of .43 measured with the floating sleeve. This is not unexpected as the leakage flow term in the laminar sealing equation is a function of eccentricity. Since the free floating sleeve tended to center itself, i.e. zero eccentricity, the leakage back over the lands was a minimum. With the fixed sleeve, it is very difficult to exactly center the shaft. Any slight eccentricity will increase the land leakage flow and thus lower the sealing coefficient.

Figures 23 and 24 show the sealing coefficient as a function of Reynolds number. Data from both fixed and floating operation show correlation. The sealing equation has previously been shown to be of the form:

$$\frac{\Delta P \quad \delta^2}{\mu \quad VL} \quad = \quad K_1 \quad + \quad K_2 \quad Re^n$$

The data of Figures 23 and 24 are approximated by the equation

$$\Delta P \delta^2$$
  $\approx$  .34 for the laminar flow regime (Re < 800).

The equation

$$\frac{\Delta P \delta^2}{\mu VL}$$
  $\approx$  .34 + 1.8 x 10<sup>-5</sup> Re<sup>1.25</sup>

for the turbulent regime (Re > 3000). Data is currently being taken in the transition region (700 > Re > 3000) using a 2 centistoke test fluid.

#### 2. Friction Factor Measurements

Measured friction factors for fixed sleeve operation are shown in Figure 25. They are much lower than the friction factors found with the free floating sleeve reported in Reference 7. This is to be expected since rubbing occurred in free sleeve operation.

In the laminar operation, the measured friction factor is given by the relation

$$f = \frac{130}{Re^{3/2}}$$

and for Reynolds numbers above 6000 the data closely approximates the friction factor for an unloaded journal bearing. Below this, the values of friction

factor appear to exhibit a slope of 3/2 as was measured in the laminar regime.

This range of operation is currently being more thoroughly investigated with a

2 centistoke viscosity fluid.

#### 3. Seal Breakdown

For each type of fluid tested there is a certain shaft speed for which the seal will start to leak slightly, perhaps a drop every two or three minutes.

This phenomena occurs in both laminar and turbulent operation. Listed below are the operating conditions for the three types of test fluids at which leakage was first observed.

	(x,y) = (x,y)			₀ <sup>1</sup> 2	
Fluid	Vapor Pressure in Hg	∆P psi	N rpm	ρυ <sup>2</sup> 2g psi	Re
SF96-5	.028	36.1	12,700	13.4	592
SF96-0.65	.028	16	12,000	14.4	6300
Distilled Water	1.8	31	18,160	42.3	6356

Two reasons for this slight leakage are probable.

- 1. Axial backflow across screw lands.
- 2. Cavitation occurs.

Examination of the above table shows that slight leakage occurs in laminar flow at Reynolds number 592. While in turbulent flow for two different fluids, the Reynolds number at which leakage is observed is 6300. To determine if axial backflow is a function of Reynolds Number, the running clearance can be reduced and further tests performed to determine the lowest Reynolds Number that leakage occurs.

The other possible cause for the leakage is cavitation. When liquid enters

a region where its static pressure is reduced to the vapor pressure, it is possible for it to boil. If this occurs, the vapor formed would most likely be expelled from the seal and condense in the atmosphere. The few drops of fluid observed leaking from the seal could then be the result of cavitation. If this were the case then, since the vapor pressures for all three test liquids are about the same, the leakage would occur at the same value of fluid velocity head,  $\frac{\rho U^2}{2g}$ . This is true for the silicone fluid but not the distilled water, so it would appear that cavitation was not the cause. However, the cavitation characteristics of different types of fluids vary tremendously, that is some fluids can sustain pressures much below their vapor pressure before cavitating while others cannot. The amount and type of impurities in the fluid can also have a considerable effect on their cavitation characteristics. Because of this it is not possible to entirely discount cavitation as a cause of seal breakdown.

#### III. MECHANICAL DESIGN

#### A. Double Disk Seal Configuration

Final design of the water test rig for the double disk seal configuration has been completed and is shown in Figure 7. The test configuration will be mounted on the 20,000 rpm test spindle. The manufacturing order for the configuration has been placed and scheduled delivery is February 25, 1963.

#### B. Liquid Metal Seal Test Spindle

Design of the 36,000 rpm high speed test rig for use with liquid metal has been progressing throughout this quarter. The seal drive spindle consists of anair turbine mounted on a ball bearing spindle similar to the present 20,000 rpm rig. The seal support spindle consists of a 3" diameter hollow shaft supported in three argon bearings. The spindle mounts the liquid metal seal configuration in an overhung position with vacuum connections at the end of the seal. This configuration is shown in Figure 13.

The design of the spindles for 36,000 rpm operation is very dependent upon the vibrational characteristics of the rotating shaft. Therefore, a complete vibration study was made of the selected shaft. Figure 14 summarizes the results of this study.

#### IV. TEST FACILITY

This facility incorporates the latest advancements in liquid metal handling, and utilizes advanced instrumentation for measurement of the operating and performance characteristics of the dynamic shaft seals. Alkali metal can be supplied to the test section over a range of conditions of pressure, temperature and flowrates.

Alkali metal seal testing can be performed at speeds in excess of 35,000 rpm and at temperatures ranging from about 150°F to 1400°F. Vacuum on the space side of the seals can be maintained at 10<sup>-6</sup> mm Hg for long time endurance testing. Thus, outer space environmental testing of liquid metal dynamic seals can be evaluated in this facility.

#### Design Specifications:

Maximum operating temperature: 1400°F

Maximum operating pressure: 80 psig

Maximum flow rate: 4 gpm

Alkali metal containment material: 316 Stainless Steel

#### Equipment and Operation:

The test facility isometric screw is shown in Figure 15 and schematic screw is shown in Figure 16. Both the alkali metal loop and the argon gas loops are shown. Argon gas is primarily used as a cover gas over the alkali metal and as a lubricant for the gas bearings in the test rig. Because of the relatively large rate of argon consumption (36 to 50 scfm), it is necessary to reclaim argon for re-use. Reclaimation is accomplished by a system independent to the seal test facility and is therefore not shown on the enclosed Figures.

Liquid metal will be circulated by a EM Pump, which is capable of pumping 4 gpm at 80 psig. Liquid metal is pumped through a heat exchanger where the

temperature is increased to within 200°F of that in the return line. After the heat exchanger, the alkali metal passes through a 15 micron filter. From the filter, the alkali metal flows through two parallel, electrically heated tubes and flow control valves to the test seal. From the test rig, the alkali metal (possibly containing a small amount of argon) is returned through the heat exchanger where it is cooled to within 200°F of the incoming liquid metal. Out of the heat exchanger, the liquid metal passes through a cooler (cold trap) where the metal is cooled by air to 200 - 300°F. The cooler is packed with wire mesh for trapping oxides at the lower temperature. From the cooler, the liquid metal enters a head tank where the entrapped argon is released from the alkali metal. The argon, containing some alkali metal vapor, is removed from the top of the head tank and is cooled to near room temperature before it enters a liquid nitrogen cooled vapor trap. Essentially, all traces of alkali metal are to be removed from the argon gas by the vapor trap and subsequent filter system. Argon from the vapor trap goes to the reclaimation system where it is further cleaned and repressurized.

The seal testing requires a vacuum of  $10^{-6}$  mm Hg on one side of the seal. This vacuum will be obtained by a 5 1/4" I.D. diffusion pump in series with a 15 cfm mechanical pump. A liquid nitrogen cooled vapor trap and a liquid nitrogen cooled chevron baffle separate the test seal from the diffusion pump. These traps prevent mixing of alkali metal vapor with the diffusion pump oil vapor. Progress

Detail design of all major loop components has been completed. Drawings and specifications for these components are now out for bids. Orders will be placed by January 31. Piping and loop layout drawings are about 90% complete. The electrical control and instrumentation systems have been specified and are now in the vendor's shop for fabrication. About 85% of standard hardware such

valves, flowmeters, pressure gages, liquid level gages, vacuum pumps and gages, etc. have been received.

The outstanding engineering and drafting yet to be done involves service connections such as air, electrical and scrubber exhaust connections.

This work has been started and is scheduled to be finished about the end of February. Drawings showing the installation of trace heating elements and thermal insulation are yet to be completed.

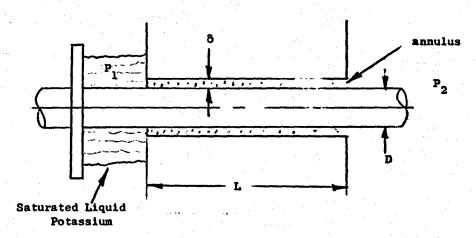
#### V. ANALYTICAL INVESTIGATION OF LEAKAGE FROM CLOSE GAP SEALS

A study has been made of molecular flow from close gap seals exhausting to vacuum. The effect of temperature and vapor pressure on leakage rates has been included in the analysis. The study predicts that a 2.0 inch long annulus is sufficient to restrict flow to 1.0 lb/year when potassium is in the temperature range 700 - 1000°R but at 1400 R such leakage rates can only be obtained with clearances less than .001 inches.

#### 1. MOLECULAR PLOW FROM CLOSE GAP SEALS

#### A. Introduction

The basic problem is to determine the leakage rate of potassium vapor from a pool of saturated liquid potassium when the vapor passes through an annulus, as shown below. In the temperature range considered (700°R - 1400°R) the vapor density is too small to allow the vapor flow rate to be computed by the usual continuum equations.



The important dimensionless parameter which characterizes the flow regime is the Knudsen Number  $(K_n)$  which is the ratio of the molecular mean free path

(λ) to the clearance (δ). When the Knudsen Number is small, the flow is governed by the familiar continuum equations. When the Knudsen Number is large, the flow is governed by the "free-molecular" equations which assume that the flow resistance is due entirely to molecular collisions with the bounding walls since inter-molecular collisions are rare. In between these extremes lie the rather vaguely defined slip-flow and transition regimes. The mathematical distinction between these regimes will be discussed in greater detail in the section concerning leakage at 1400°R.

#### B. General Data

D = shaft dis = 1.0 inches

L = annulus length = 0.5 - 2.0 inches

 $\delta$  = annulus clearance = 0.001 - 0.010 inches

T = potassium saturation temperature = 700°R - 1400°R

 $P_2$  = ambient pressure at the atmospheric end of the annulus =  $10^{-6}$  mm Hg

P, = saturation pressure of potassium

Flow is isothermal

#### C. Mean Free Path

The type of vapor flow regime (continuum, slip, free molecular) depends on the Knudsen Number

$$K_n = \frac{\lambda}{5}$$
 (Ref. 1)

where

 $\lambda$  = mean free path

δ = annulus clearance

The mean free path (  $\lambda$  ) is predicted from kinetic theory to be

$$\lambda = \frac{3 \nu}{V}$$
 (Ref. 1)

where

$$v = \frac{\mu}{\rho}$$
 = kinematic viscosity of the vapor (Ref. 2)  
 $\overline{V}$  = mean molecular velocity

The mean velocity is calculated from

$$\overline{V} = \sqrt{\frac{8}{\pi \gamma}} V_s$$
 (Ref. 1)

where

γ = specific heat ratio

$$V_s = \text{velocity of sound} = \sqrt{\gamma g_o R T}$$

R = gas constant

T = absolute temperature

For saturated potassium vapor (Ref. 2)

**************************************	V ft/sec	ft <sup>2</sup> /hr	λ in
700	1518	12.03 (10 <sup>5</sup> )	7.93
800	1615	60,67 (10 <sup>3</sup> )	0.376
900	1712	62,00 (10 <sup>2</sup> )	0.036
1000	1804	100.0 (10)	0,0056

Using the largest clearance anticipated (0.010 inches), the smallest Knudsen Number is

$$K_n \geq 0.56$$

which means that all vapor flows to be considered are in the free molecular regime. (Ref. 4, also see section to follow on leakage at 1400°R)

#### D. Evaporation Rate Through an Orifice

The maximum evaporation rate from the surface of a liquid is predicted by kinetic theory to be

$$\frac{\mathbf{w}_{\text{max. evap.}}}{\mathbf{A}} = \frac{\mathbf{P}_{\text{sat}}}{\sqrt{\frac{2 \pi RT}{\mathbf{g}_{0}}}}$$

(Ref. 3)

where

Actual evaporation rates are slightly less than the maximum predicted by theory. Experimental results given by Dushman (Ref. 4) are in good agreement with this approximate equation. Dushman's data is as follows:

T OR	p psia	lb/ft <sup>2</sup> sec
655	1.934 (10 <sup>-7</sup> )	3.91 (10 <sup>-7</sup> )
712	1.934 (10 <sup>-6</sup> )	3.75 (10 <sup>-6</sup> )
781	1.934 (10 <sup>-5</sup> )	3.58 (10 <sup>-5</sup> )
864	1.934 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )	3.42 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )
968	1.934 (10 <sup>-3</sup> )	3.22 (10 <sup>-3</sup> )
1100	1.934 (10 <sup>-2</sup> )	3.03 (10 <sup>-2</sup> )

Since these values represent the evaporation rates from a surface (which behaves like an orifice in a thin plate), they are the evaporative losses of the lubrication case of an annulus of zero length (L).

#### E. Evaporation Rate Through An Annulus

When the interface between the liquid and vapor occurs within an annulus, the walls of the annulus restrict the molecular flow and reduce the evaporative rate below the maximum orifice rate.

The free molecular flow rate through an annulus is given by

$$W = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\overline{FVA}}{RT} (P_1 - P_2)$$
 (Ref. 4)

where

molecular mass flow rate in the annulus

P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub> = pressures at the ends of the annulus

= a function of the annulus geometry (Ref. 4)

$$= \frac{\delta}{L} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{8}{3} K \frac{\delta}{L}} \right], \quad \frac{L}{\delta} > 1.5 \quad \text{(See Fig. 2)}$$

$$= \text{tabulated function of (} \frac{L}{\delta} \text{)} \quad \text{(Ref. 5)}$$

 $\pi D\delta$  = cross-section area of the annulus

The evaporation rate from the interface is controlled by the resistance of the annulus to vapor flow. This is expressed mathematically through the continuity equation as follows:

where

$$W_{\text{evap}} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\overline{\text{FVA}}}{\overline{\text{RT}}} (P_1 - P_2)$$

$$P_1 = \text{saturated vapor pressure}$$

$$P_2 = \text{ambient pressure}$$

Since the lowest vapor pressure (P<sub>1</sub> at 700°R) is 1.1989 (10<sup>-6</sup>) psia and  $P_2 = 10^{-6}$  mm Hg = 1.934 (10<sup>-8</sup>) psia the maximum evaporative rate through the annulus is approximated by

Wevap. max. 
$$\approx \frac{2}{3}$$
 FVA  $\rho_{\text{vapor}}$ 

where

o vapor = saturated vapor density

Assuming that the maximum allowable leakage rate is of the order of 1 lb/ year the following table indicates the length annulus required to maintain this

#### as a maximum rate:

T	=	700	°R
---	---	-----	----

å inches	$\frac{2}{3} \rho_{\text{vap}} \overline{\text{VA}}$		L inches	max. eyap. _lb/yr (Ref. 4)
0.001	43.4 (10	<sup>4</sup> )	0.000	16.93 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )
0.005	217 (10-	4)	0.000	84.64 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )
0.010	434 (10-	<b>4</b> )	0.000	169.3 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )
T = 800°R				
8 inches	$\frac{2}{3} \rho_{\text{vap}}$ $\overline{\text{VA}}$		L inches	max. evap. lb/yr (Ref. 4)
0.001	1100 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )	т. Г	0.000	(4.52) (10 <sup>-2</sup> )
0.005	5500 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )		0.000	(22.6) (10 <sup>-2</sup> )
0.010	11000 (10 <sup>-4</sup> )	: !	0.000	(45.2) (10 <sup>-2</sup> )
T = 900°R				
δ ≠knches	$\frac{2}{3} \rho_{\text{vap}} \overline{\text{VA}}$	<u>L</u> 8	L inches	Wevap. max. - 1b/yr
0.001	1,342	• •	0.000	0.5
0.005	6,71	5.8	0.029	1.0
0.010	13,42	13.42	0.134	1.0
T = 1000°R				
δ inches	$\frac{2}{3} \rho_{\text{vap}} \overline{\text{VA}}$	<u>L</u> 8	L inches	wevap. max.
0.001	9.84	8.8	0.009	1.0
0.005	49.2	49.2	0.246	1.0
0.010	98.2	98.2	0,982	1.0

#### Flow at 1400°R

Calculating the evaporation rate at 1400°R presents some special problems since the mean free path is

$$\lambda = 3 = \frac{V}{V} = 68.7 (10^{-6})$$
 inches

and the Knudsen Number range is

8 inches	K <sub>n</sub>		Regime	
0.001	0.0687	•	free-molecular,	transition
0.005	0.01370		transition, slip	•
0.010	0.00687		slip	

In the slip-flow regime the flow rate is given by (Ref. 3)

$$W = \frac{\pi D}{24} \left( \frac{\delta^3}{\mu RT} \right) \left( \frac{{p_1}^2 - {p_2}^2}{L} \right) \left[ 1 + 6 \frac{2 - f}{f} \right] K_n$$

where

f = specular reflection coefficient

Since 
$$P_1^2 > P_2^2$$
, using  $v = \frac{1}{3} \lambda \sqrt{\frac{8 g_o RT}{\pi}}$ 

the flow rate may be approximated by

$$W \cong \frac{\pi}{64} \quad \frac{-8}{L} \left[ \frac{1}{Kn} + 6 \left( \frac{2-f}{f} \right) \right] \quad \frac{\rho_1}{RT} \overline{V} A$$

For Knudsen Numbers in the free-molecular flow regime this equation reduces

to 
$$W \cong \frac{\pi}{64} \quad \frac{8}{L} \quad \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{2-f}{f} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\rho_{1} \, \overline{V}A}{RT}$$

When  $\frac{\delta}{L}$  << 1.0 , f may be evaluated by comparing this equation with the

free molecular flow equations used previously, so that

$$\frac{2}{3} = \frac{\pi}{64} \int_{6}^{6} \left(\frac{2-t}{f}\right) dt$$

$$6 \left(\frac{2-t}{f}\right) = \frac{128}{3\pi} = 13.56$$
 (Ref. 6)

The approximate equation which covers all flow regimes is then

$$W = \frac{\pi D}{24} \left(\frac{\delta^3}{\mu RT}\right) \left(\frac{P_1^2 - P_2^2}{L}\right) \left[1 + 13.56 \text{ K}_n\right]$$

when

$$\frac{\delta}{L}$$
 << 1.0

Note that if  $K_n=1/2$ , the error introduced by neglecting the plane Poiseuille flow contribution, as in the calculations at lower temperatures, amounts to

$$\frac{1}{1+13.56} \frac{(1/2)}{(1/2)} = 12.86\%$$

Using the approximate equation above at 1400°R for wevap. max.

S inches	<u> </u>	L inches
0.001	0.0687	3.15
0.005	0.01374	241.0
0.010	0.00687	1780.0

#### F. Conclusion

It appears that a 2.0 inch long annulus is sufficient to restrict the flow to 1.0 lb/year when the potassium is in the temperature range  $700-1000^{\circ}R$  but at  $1400^{\circ}R$  such leakage rates can be obtained only when  $\delta$  = 0.001 inches.

#### SYMBOLS

1.

Slinger Seal	
	Reynolds number, taken at the disk tip, dimensionless, $\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{v}}$
<b>∆c_</b>	Torque coefficient for disk partially wetted on two
	sides, dimensionless, $\frac{24}{\rho \omega}$ .
P <sub>H</sub>	Static pressure being sealed by the water, psig.
n	
P Dynamic L	Dynamic pressure of sealing fluid, water, on the low
<b>-</b>	pressure side of the disk, psig.
<b>a</b>	Radius of stationary disk, ft.
r <sub>L</sub>	Radius of fluid from the center of the disk on the
	low pressure side, ft.
r <sub>H</sub>	Radius of fluid from the center of the disk on the
	high pressure side, ft.
	<b>2</b>
ν	Kinematic viscosity, ft <sup>2</sup> per second.
	2. <b>4</b>
ρ	Sealing fluid mass density, lb sec <sup>2</sup> /ft <sup>4</sup> .
	e de la companya de
<b>k</b>	Ratio of angular velocities, dimensionless, $\frac{B}{\omega}$ .
ω	Angular velocity of rotating housing, radians per second.
N	Rotating housing velocity, rpm.

#### SYMBOLS (continued)

M Frictional torque (moment), ft. 1b.

Radius Ratio, dimensionless.

P Horsepower.

W Cooling flow, gpm water.

Spacing between disk and rotating housing on the low pressure side of the disk, ft.

η Seal Efficiency.

P<sub>N</sub> Thrust.

#### 2. Screw Seal

D Shaft diameter.

e Flight width.

h Depth of groove in shaft.

K, , K, Constants in sealing equation.

L Threaded length of shaft.

Number of threads.

Shaft angular velocity, rpm.

△P Pressure drop across seal.

## SYMBOLS (continued)

•	
Re	Reynolds number
	Mhuad adada
<b>t</b>	Thread pitch = xD tan
<b>t</b> *	t* = t/n
v	Shaft Speed.
	bhate bpeed.
₩	Width of thread channel.
₩*	Width of thread land.
α	h/w
β	δ/ <b>h</b>
	w/(w + w')
7	<b>"</b> /(" + " )
•	
8	Radial clearance.
μ	Absolute viscosity.
ν	Kinematic viscosity.
<b>V</b>	Alhematic Viscosity.
φ	Thread helix angle
Subscripts	
cr	Critical
<b>-</b>	W4 ~ U4UG4
opt	Optimum value.



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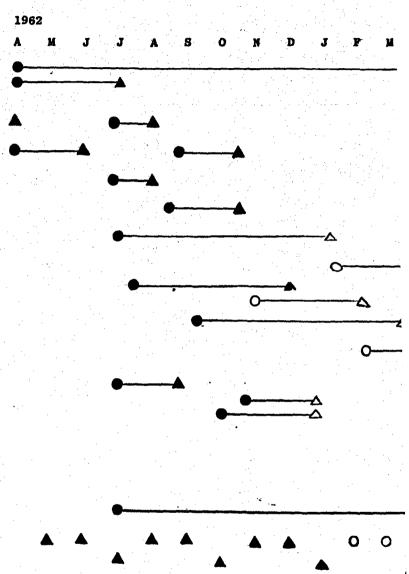
Basic Analysis. Set-up and Checkout of 20,000 rpm Water Test Spindle. Design of Water Ring Seal Configurations. Manufacture of Water Ring Seal Configurations. Design of Water Screw Seal Configurations. Manufacture of Water Screw Seal Configurations. Design of Liquid Metal Test Spindle - 36,000 rpm. Manufacture of Liquid Metal Test Spindle. Design of Liquid Metal Loops Manufacture of Liquid Metal Loops Design of Liquid Metal Seal Configurations. Manufacture of Liquid Metal Seal Configurations. Experiments with Water 20,000 rpm Rotating Housing Seal Squeeze Seal -Screw Seal Set-Up and Checkout of Liquid Metal Test Spindle 36,000 rpm. 100 Hour Screening and Thermal Cycling Liquid Metal Tests. 3000 Hour Endurance Test with Liquid Metal Evaluation Reports: Monthly

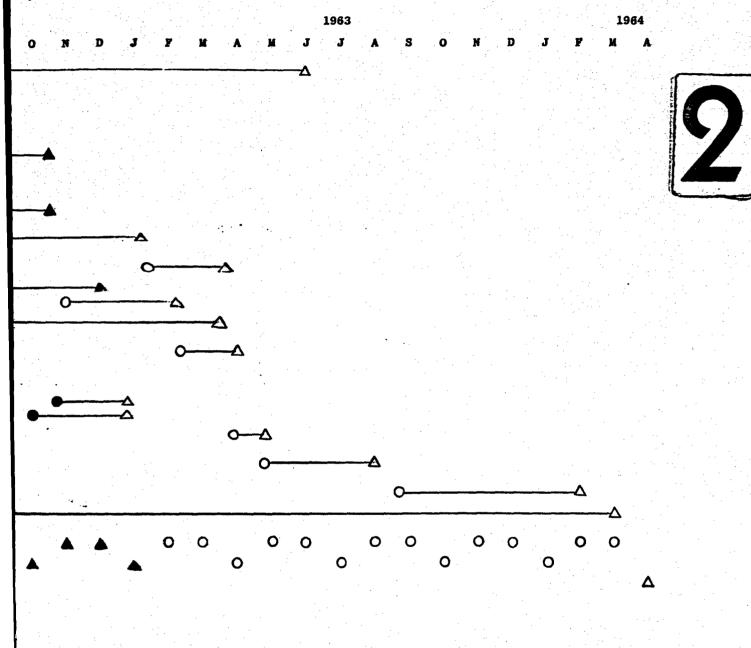
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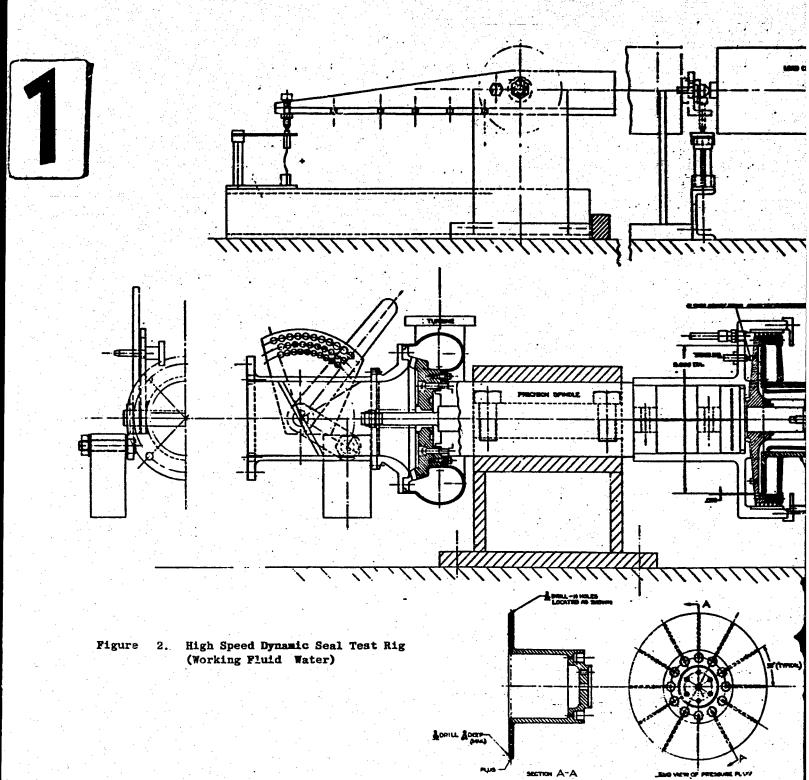
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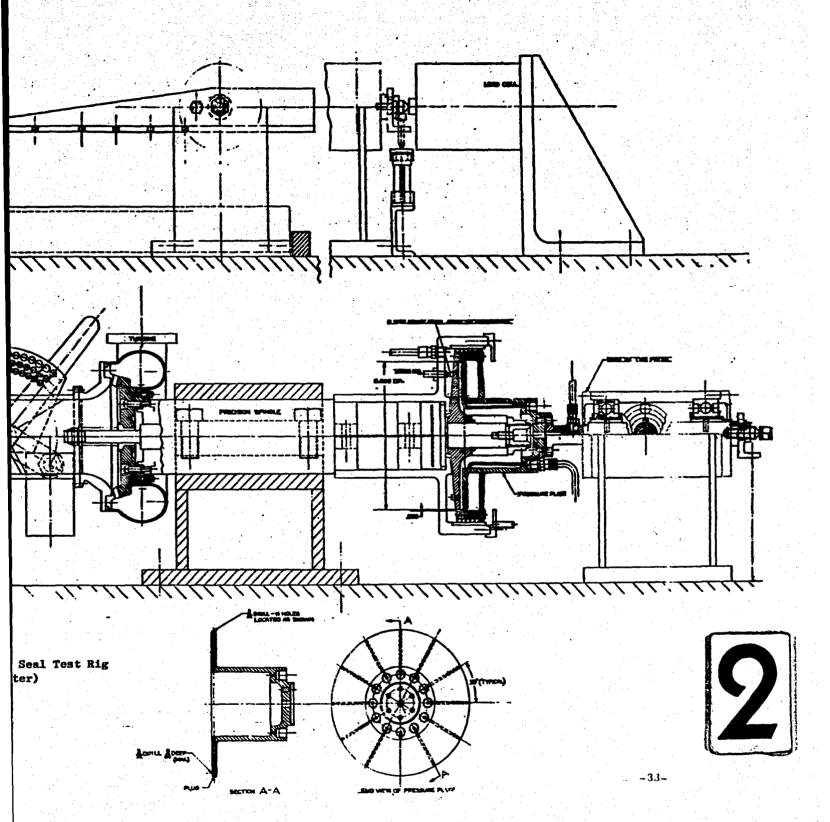
Figure 1. Dynamic Seal Work Schedule





-32-





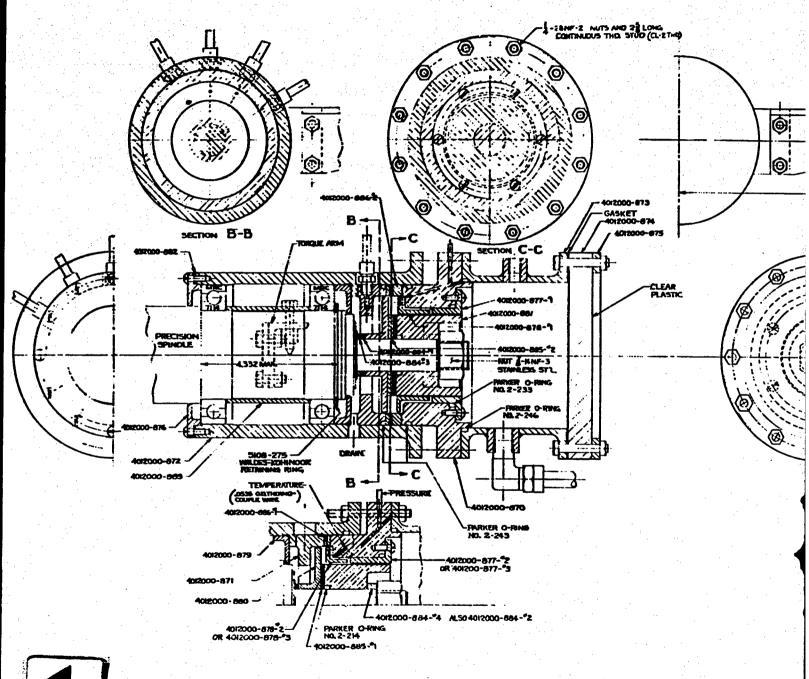
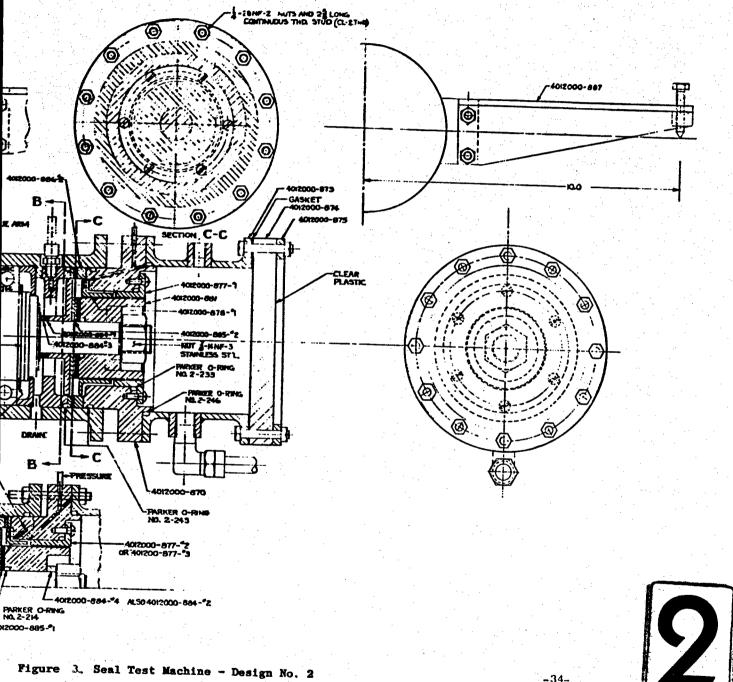


Figure 3. Seal Test Machine - Design No. 2



-34-

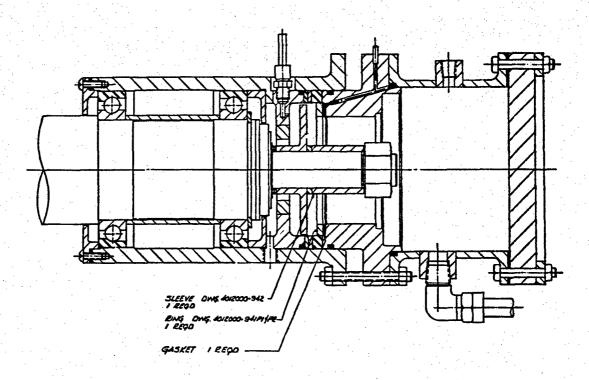


Figure 4. Rotating Disk Seal Configuration.

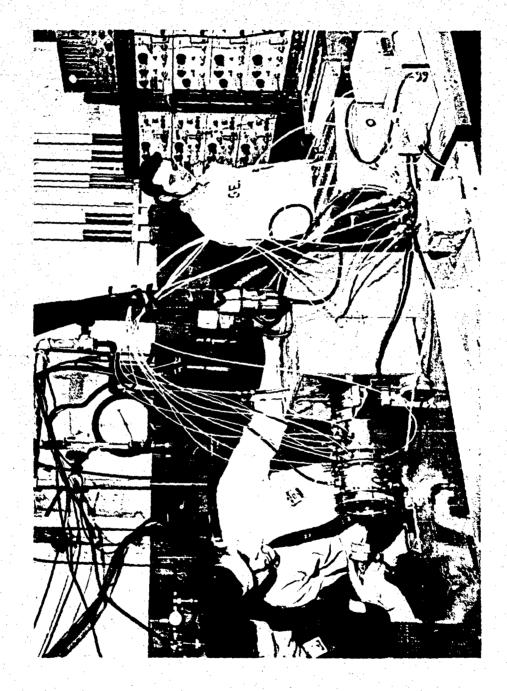


Figure 5. Photograph of Rotating Disk-Squeeze Seal Test Rig in Operation, No. C212984.

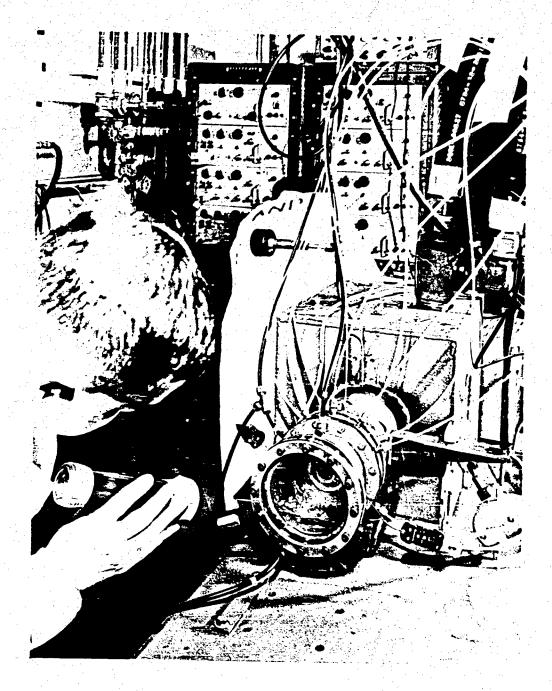


Figure 6. Photograph Test Rig in Operation, No. C212965.

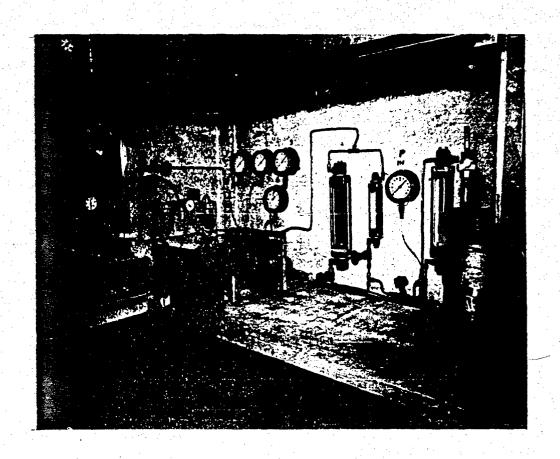
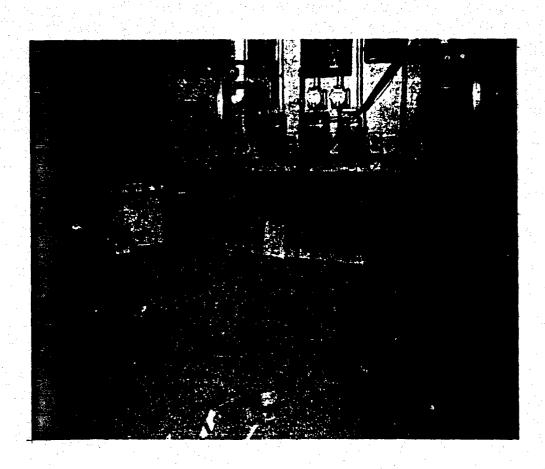
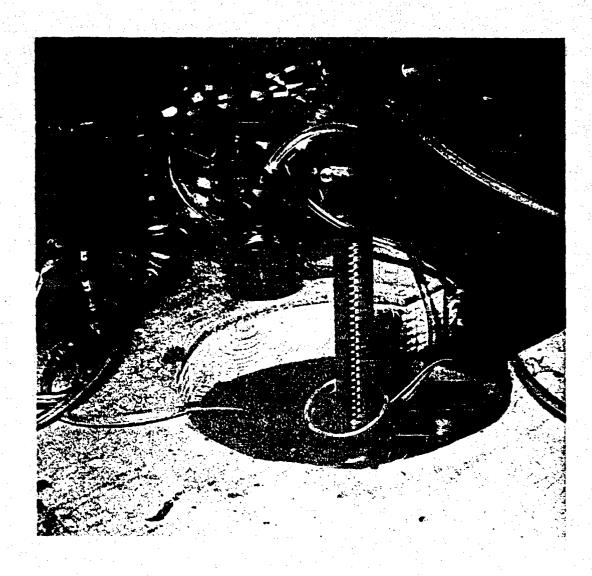


Figure 8. Picture of Test Rig



Signo 8 Picture of Instrumentation



thanks in Picture of Screw

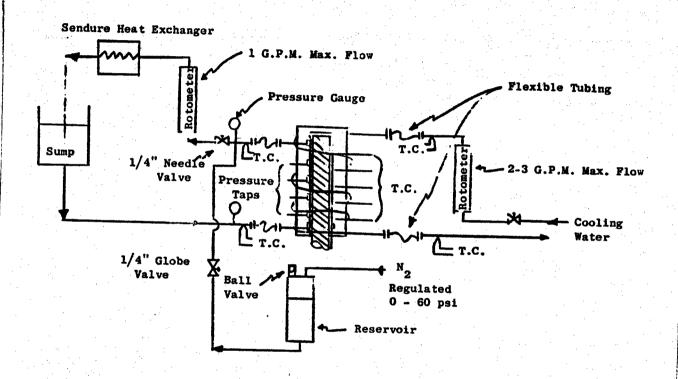


Figure 12. Test Loop and Instrumentation for Screw Seal Test.

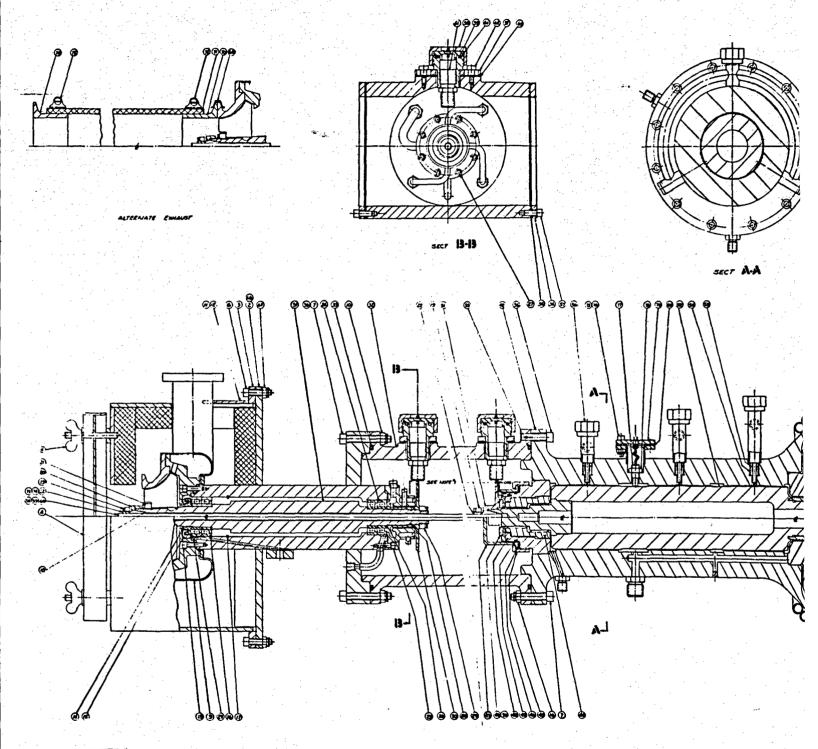
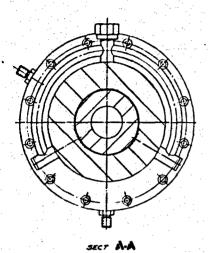
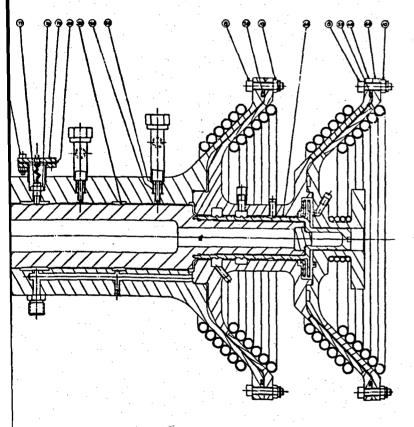
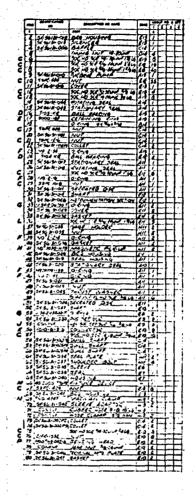


Figure 13







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Figure 13

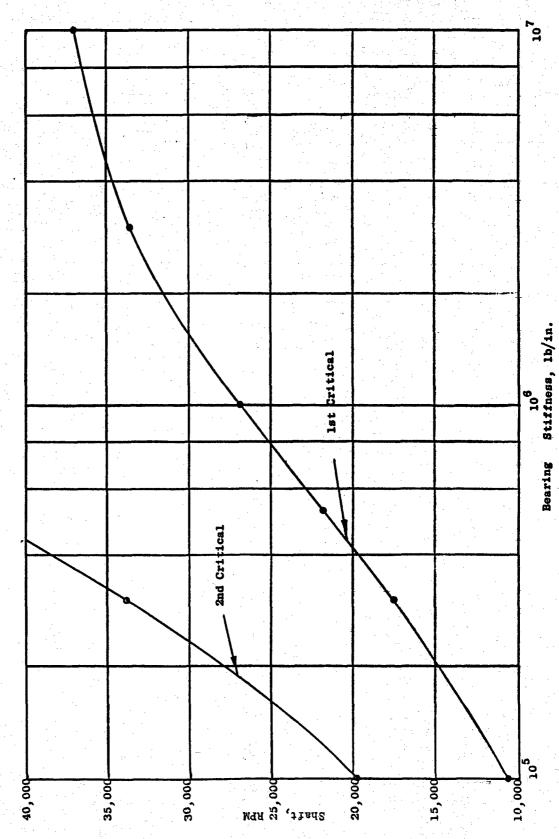
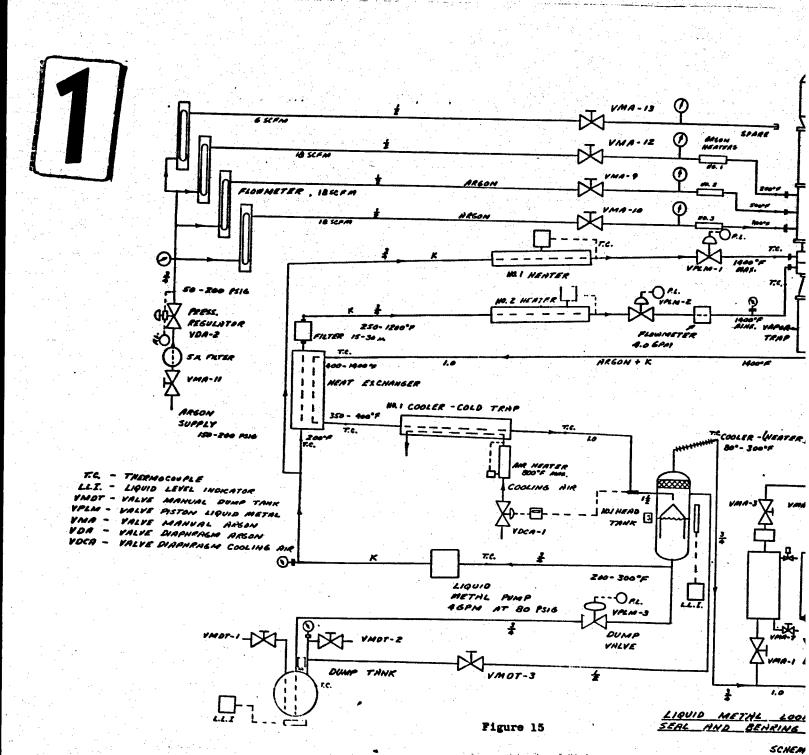
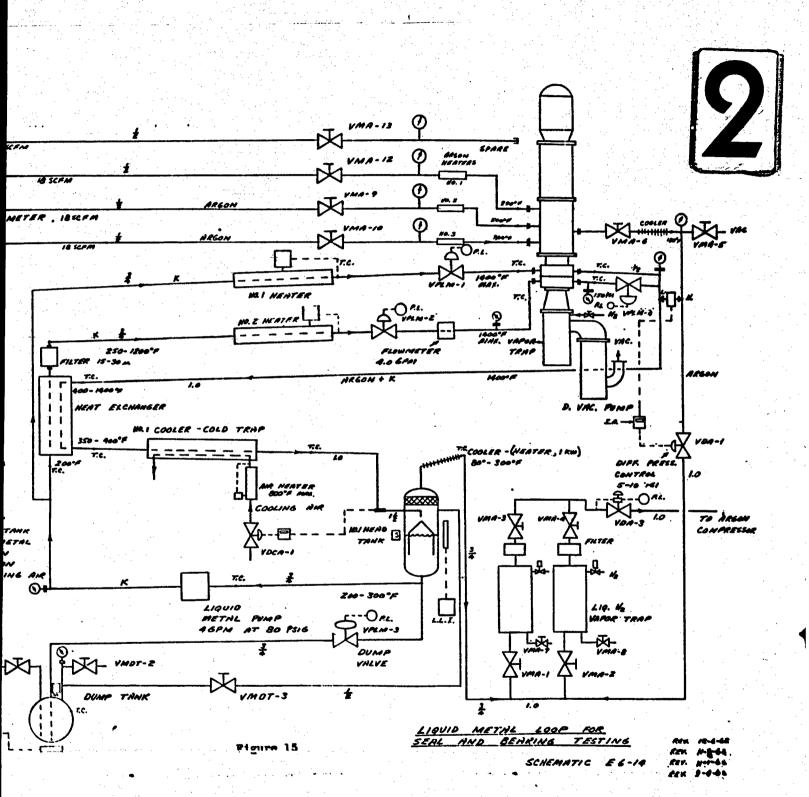


Figure 14. Plot of Shaft Critical Speeds for LM Test Spindle





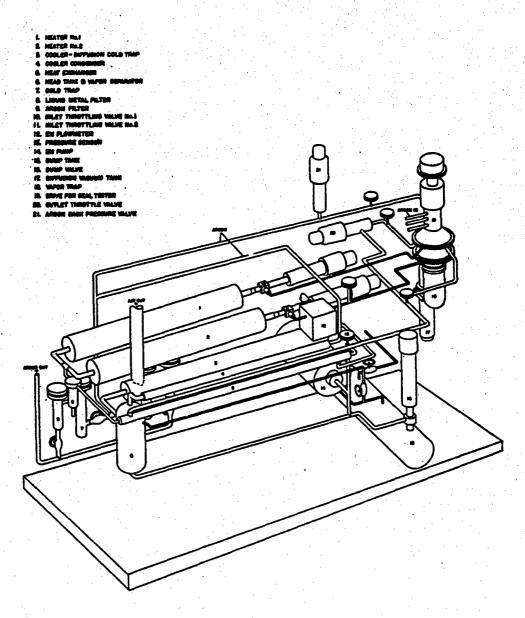


Figure 16. Seal Test Facility

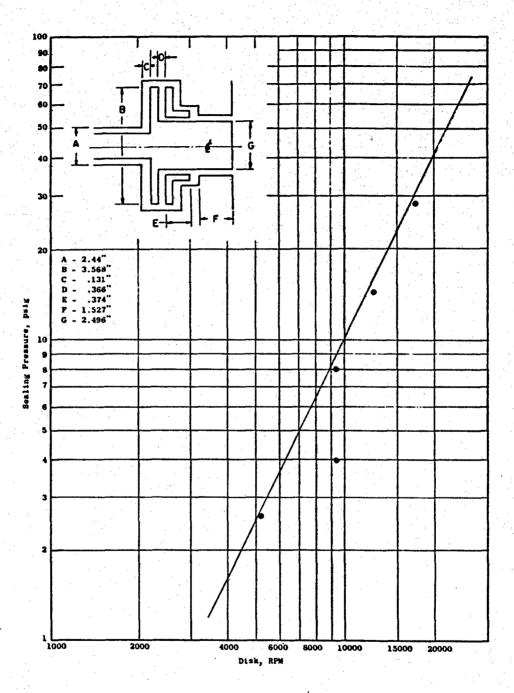


Figure 17a. Squeeze Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No. 3-20-1313.

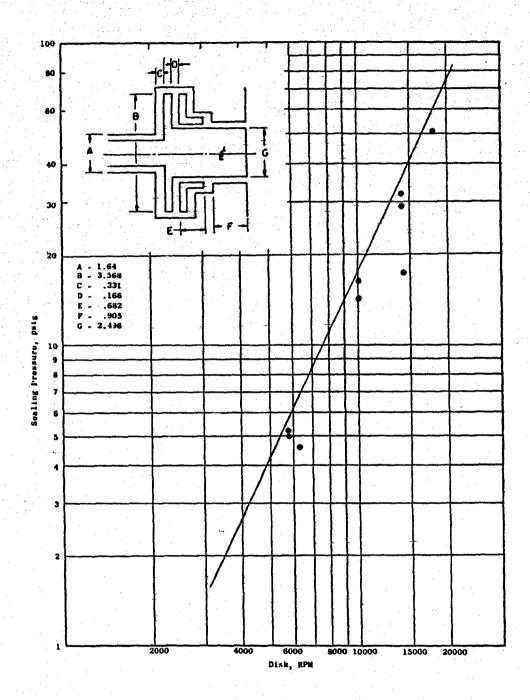


Figure 17b. Squeeze Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No. 3-32-2311.

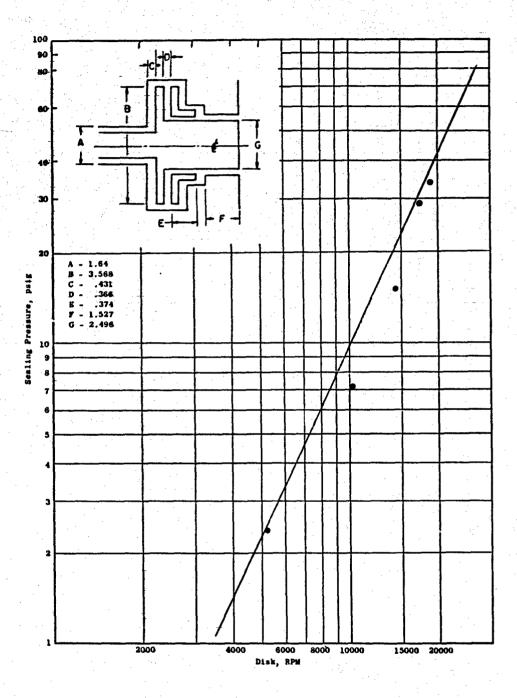


Figure 17c. Squeeze Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No 3-40-1313.

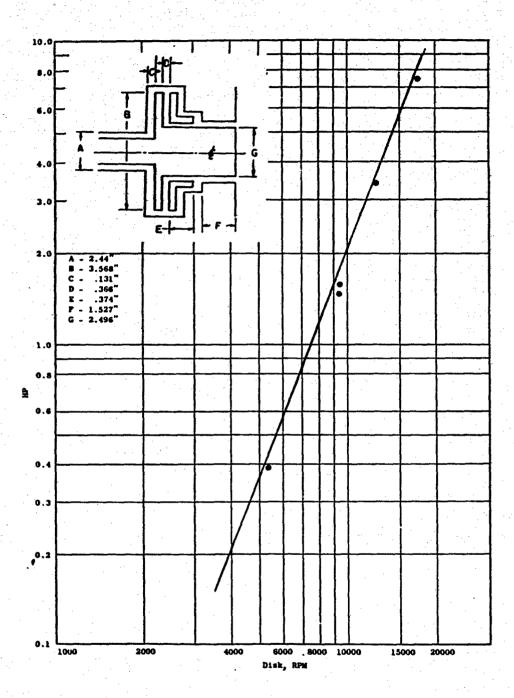


Figure 18a. Squeeze Seal Power Requirement, Configuration No. 3-20-1313.

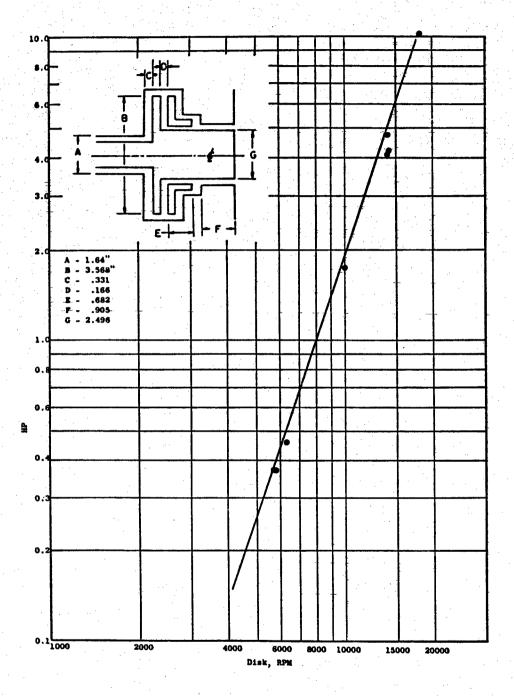


Figure 18b. Squeeze Seal Power Requirement, Configuration No. 3-32-2311.

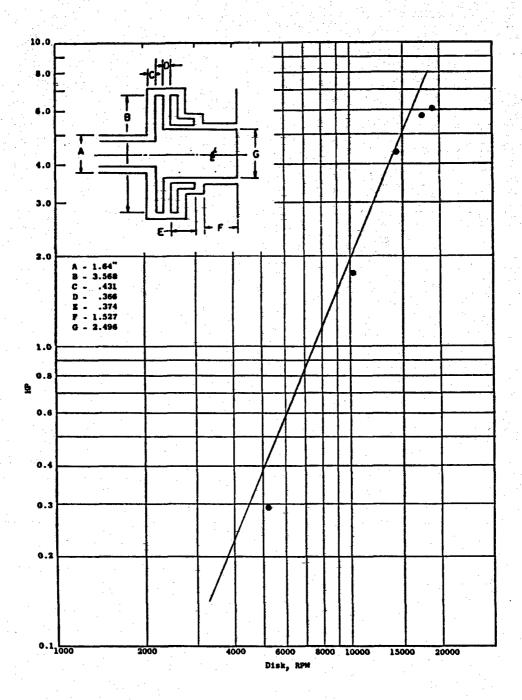


Figure 18c. Squeeze Seal Power Requirement, Configuration No. 3-40-1313.

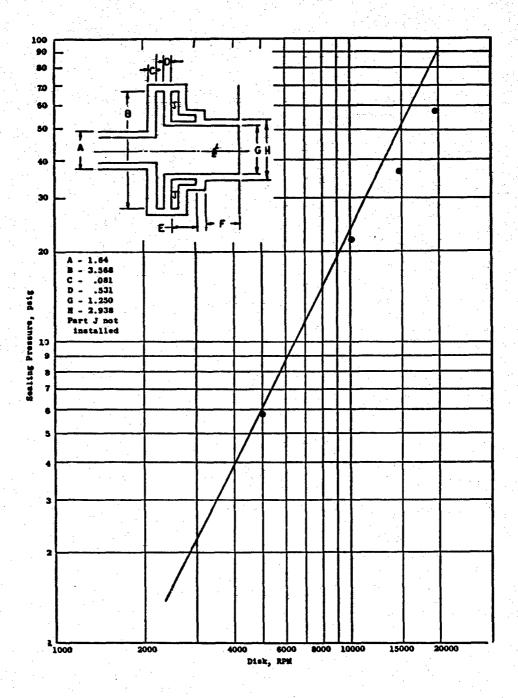


Figure 19a. Rotating Disk Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No. 13.

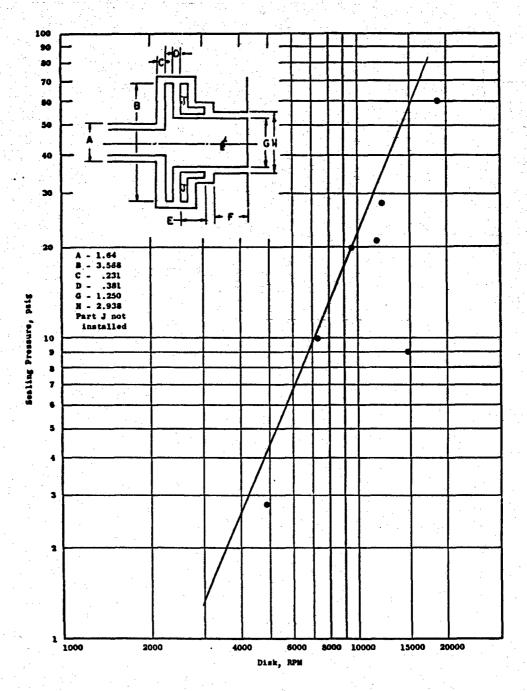


Figure 19b. Rotating Disk Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No. 26.

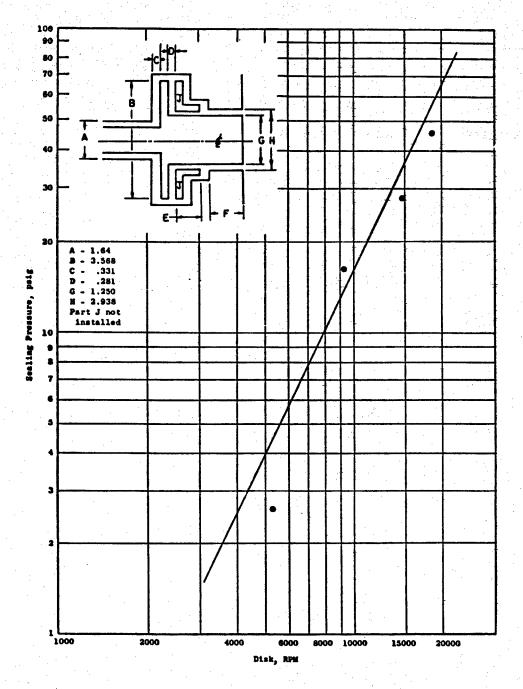


Figure 19c. Rotating Disk Seal Pressure Capacity, Configuration No. 32.

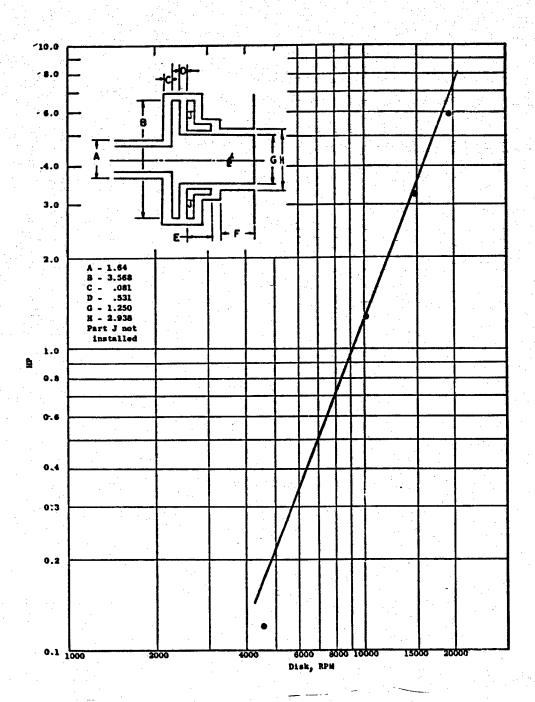


Figure 20a. Rotating Disk Seal Power Requirement, Configuration 13.

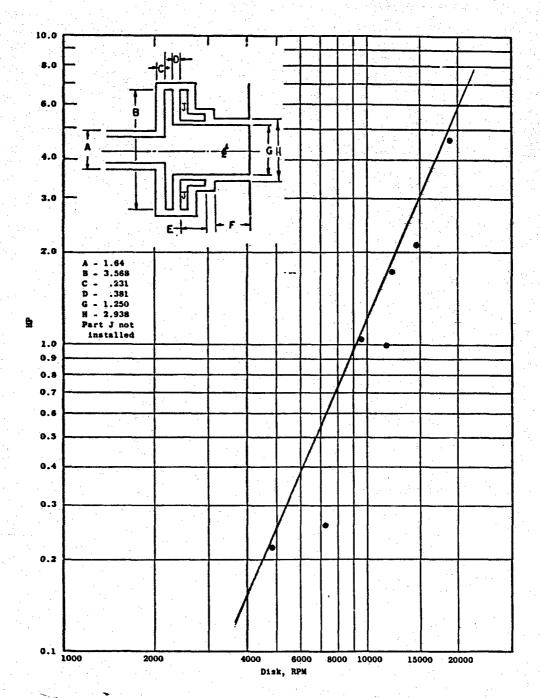


Figure 20b. Rotating Disk Seal Power Requirement, Configuration 26.

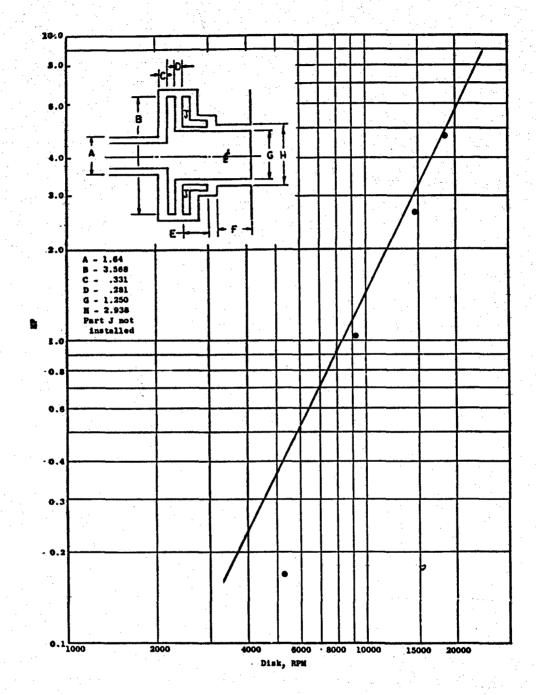


Figure 20c. Rotating Disk Seal Power Requirement, Configuration 32.

## SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS

## Quill No. 1

## Free Floating Sleeve

		8	N	ΔP	Measured Power
Test No.	Test Fluid	mils	rpm	psi	H.P.
en de la companya de La companya de la co					
1-1	SF96-5	3,50	3980	15.05	0.106
1-2	8F96-5	3.50	4760	20.34	0.113
1-3	SF96-5	3.50	6240	25.74	0.1043
1-4	SF96-5	3.50	4080	16.04	0.068
1-5	SF96-5	3.50	5660	20.54	0.1109
1-6	SF96-5	3.50	5700	25.54	0.1279
1-7	SF96-5	3.50	6940	30.54	0.1360
1-8	SF96-0.65	3.50	4560	4.5	0.064
1-9	SF96-0.65	3.6	6680	6.54	0.047
1-10	SF96-0.65	3.7	10360	10.24	0,1734
1-11	SF96-0.65	3.8	13460	13.14	0.2637
1-12	SF96-0.65	3.92	14940	15.44	0.2103
1-13	SF96-0.65	4.04	16560	18.24	0.1952
1-14	SF96-0.65	4.15	7080	6.14	0.0592
1-15	SF96-0.65	4.25	12160	10.44	0.1041
1-16	SF96-0.65	4.38	15400	15.64	0.2812
1-17	SF96-0.65	4.5	16840	20.44	0.2113
1-18	SF96-0.65	4.6	18760	22,94	0.3139
1-19	SF96-0.65	4.7	20420	25.64	0.4544

Figure 21

## SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS

Quill No. 1

## Fixed Sleeve

Test No.	Test Fluid	N rpm	∆P psi	L in	Measured Power
1-20	Distilled Water	5220	5.45	3.75	.0292
1-21	10	8560	10.05	2.80	.0479
1-22	•	11520	15.90	2.50	.0646
1-23		13600	20.55	2.42	.0761
1-24	er e	15060	25.40	2.34	.0842
1-25	•	16340	30.40	2.31	.0915
1-26	**	6240	5.70	3.48	.0568
1-27	<b>ff</b>	11780	15.65	2.51	.1169
1-28	PI .	17040	31.00	2.48	.1429
1-29	**	17860	35.65	2.29	.1498
1-30		19520	40.70	2.27	.1912
1-31	1	20660	45.5	2.20	.2023
1-32	••	21460	50.5	2.25	.2102
1-33	tf.	23080	55.5	2.25	.2418
1-34	•	24160	60.5	2.25	.2532
1-35	14	27760	57.0	1.57	.2909
1-36	11	29880	55.0	1.44	.3131
1-37	10	31520	55.0	1.23	.3303
1-38	•	18160	31.0	2.26	.0763
1-39	**	5600	7.0	4.00	.0392

# SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS (cont'd)

Quill No. 1

# Fixed Sleeve

Test No.	Test Fluid	N rpm	ΔP psi	L	Measured Power
1-40	Distilled Water	16520	30.6	2,36	.2080
1-41	•	35000	56,8	1.21	.3383
1-42	SF95(5)	1360	5.3	4.00	.0764
1-43	•	3020	10.7	2.79	.1902
1-44	<b></b>	4520	15,5	2.53	.3793
1-45	•i	6120	21.0	2.44	.5562
1-46	<b>31</b>	7780	26.0	2,37	.7622
1-47	11	9320	31.0	2.31	.1108
1-48	11	10700	36.1	2.28	.1272
1-49	11	11640	41.2	2.28	.1384
1-50	17	12700	46.2	2,27	.1598
1-51	•	13580	51.2	2,26	.1709
1-52	11	14320	55.8	2.24	.1803
1-53	**	15420	61.0	2,24	.1942

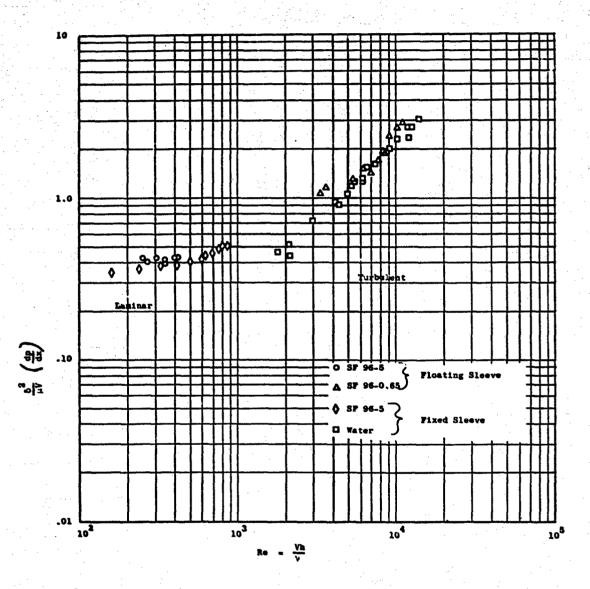


Figure 23. Sealing Coefficient vs. Reynolds Number.

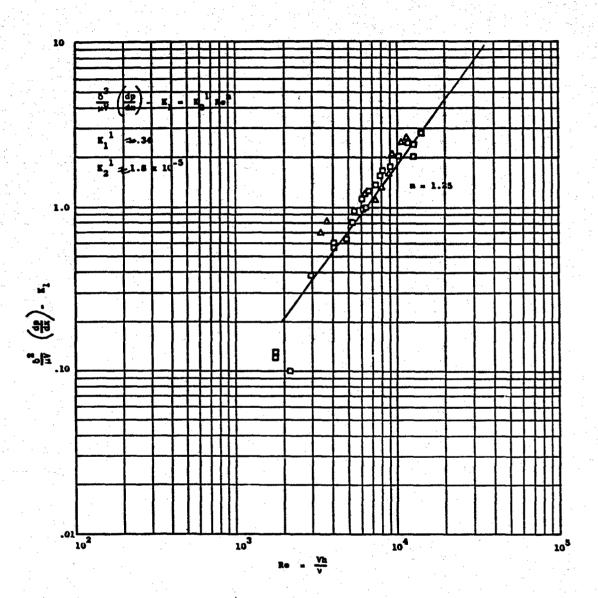


Figure 24. Sealing Coefficient vs. Reynolds Number.

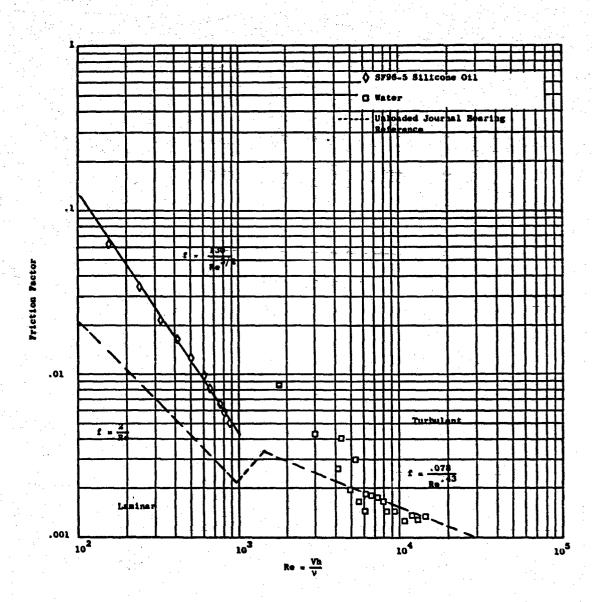


Figure 25. Screw Seal Friction Factor vs. Reynolds Number.

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